

The Hong Kong Daily Press

Kong

Daily

Press.

No. 9352 號二五百三十九第

日三十月一十年三十號光

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 1887.

二月

號七十二月二十英港香

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

December 24, YIKANG, British steamer, 836, Loek, Chinkiang 20th December, General JARDINE, MATTHESON & CO.

December 24, WHAMPOA, British steamer, 1,109, Geo. Haworth, Swatow 23rd December, General BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

December 24, BAYER, German steamer, 2,877, Sander, Shanghai 21st December, Mails and General - MELCHERS & CO.

December 24, NANO, British steamer, 384, F. D. Goddard, Foochow 21st December, Amy 22nd, and Swatow 23rd, General - DOUGLAS LAPHAM & CO.

December 24, JACOB CHRISTENSEN, Norwegian steamer, 1,107, J. Bjørk, Kitchener 18th December, Coal - MITTS - BUSAN KARSHA.

December 24, DANILA, British steamer, 536, J. C. Nielsen, Manila 21st December, General - BAN HO.

December 24, FERO, German steamer, 784, T. N. Hansen, Saigon 17th December, Rice and Paddy - ED. SCHELLHORN & CO.

December 25, HAIPHONG, British steamer, 1,122, Harris Saigon 20th December, Rice - DOUGLAS LAPHAM & CO.

December 25, KWANG-LIE, Chinese steamer, 1,508, Well, Shanghai 22nd December, General - C. M. S. N. CO.

December 25, GLENORCHY, British str., 1,821, F. Gedy, London, and Singapore 17th December, General - JARDINE, MATTHESON & CO.

December 25, MELBOURNE, French steamer, 3,855, Lequerré, Saigon 23rd December, Mails and General - MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

December 25, SINDH, French steamer, 2,168, Mac, Marseilles 20th November, Singapore 18th December, and Saigon 21st, Mails and General - MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

December 25, CLARA, German steamer, 674, Christensen, Haiphong 23rd December, General - SIEMENS & CO.

December 25, ABRATION ÁFACÁ, British str., 1,392, A. H. Macarish, Calcutta 9th Dec, Penang 15th, and Singapore 18th, Opium and General - DAVID SASSOON, Sons & Co.

December 25, GUY MANNERING, British str., 1,829, Hall, Amy 24th December, General - RUSSELL & CO.

December 25, ZAFIRO, British steamer, 675, R. M. Talbot, Manila 23rd December, General - RUSSELL & CO.

December 26, HOUHOW, British steamer, 819, Carter, Shanghai 23rd December, General - BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

December 26, ANNIE REED, American bark, 719, Geo. A. Walker, Newcastle and Nor, Coal - ADAMSON, BELL & CO.

December 26, FUSHUN, Chinese steamer, 1,503, Croad, Whampoa 26th December, General - C. M. S. N. CO.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE.

24TH DECEMBER.

Ningpo, British str., for Swatow.

Wingang, British str., for Singapore.

Neel, British str., for Singapore.

Kong Beng, British str., for Swatow.

Nanosh, British str., for Swatow.

Fevr, Danish str., for Haiphong.

Danube, British str., for Haiphong.

Laurits, British str., for Shanghai.

Phu-quoc, French str., for Haiphong.

Ferns, British str., for Swatow.

DEPARTURES.

December 24, AMOY, British str., for Whampoa.

December 24, FOOKSANG, British steamer, for Whampoa.

December 24, YIKANG, British str., for Whampoa.

December 24, WINGANG, British str., for Calcutta.

December 24, TAIWAN, British str., for Swatow.

December 24, NESTOR, British str., for London.

December 24, YUNGCHIN, Chinese steamer, for Shanghai.

December 25, VORWARTZ, German str., for Toulon.

December 25, KONG BENG, British steamer, for Swatow.

December 25, FORMOSA, British str., for Tamsui.

December 25, KWANG-LIE, Chinese steamer, for Whampoa.

December 25, WALTER W. BREWER, German str., for Liverpool.

December 25, ANGLO-CHINESE CALENDAR, FOR THE DESK, IN RED AND BLACK.

IN RED Imitation Morocco Case.

PRICE ONE DOLLAR.

KELLY & WALSH, W. BREWER, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

FRENCH DRESS-MAKER.

MRS. G. HEYMANS,

35, WELLINGTON STREET,

HONGKONG.

THE ONLY FRENCH DRESS-MAKER IN HONGKONG.

DIPLOMA IN PARIS IN 1884.

Hongkong, 12th October, 1887. [1972]

CUSTOM HOUSE.

KOWLOON, 22nd December, 1887.

NOTIFICATION.

ON MONDAY NEXT, the 2nd January, 1888 - being the day after NEW YEAR'S DAY - THIS OFFICE AND THE OPUM EXAMINATION HALL WILL BE CLOSED TO THE TRANSACTION OF ALL BUSINESS; BUT WORK AT THE CUSTOMS STATIONS WILL PROCEED AS USUAL.

F. A. MORGAN, Commissaire of Customs

ZETLAND LODGE.

No. 525.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASONS HALL, Zetland Street, THIS EVENING, the 27th instant, at 8 for 8.30 P.M., precisely.

VISITING BRETHREN are cordially INVITED.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1887. [1933]

INTIMATIONS.

BANKS.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

FOR many years the STANDARD LIFE OFFICE has paid away upwards of Half a Million Pounds Sterling per Annum in Death Claims. Its Funds - steadily increasing, exceed £1 Millions, and have increased over 50 per cent. in the last 15 years. The New Assurances on carefully selected lives for the last five years have been in excess of the Business transacted by any of the Scottish Life Offices. The Business is conducted with economy, the premiums are moderate, and the conditions will be found liberal.

Forms of Proposal on application to the

BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED,

Agents, Hongkong.

905-21

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

FOR SALE.

THE NEWEST MECHANICAL TOYS.

FRENCH DOLLS.

AMUSING NOVELTIES.

GAMES.

AND A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF

CHILDREN'S TOYS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 30th November, 1887. [1936]

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED,

ARE NOW SHOWING AN ENTIRELY

NEW STOCK

OF SPECIALLY SELECTED FANCY GOODS,

Suitable for

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Comprising Tantalus Perfume Sets in Oryx, and Ormolu, Dresden Statuettes in Artistic Designs, Coronet and Ornate Inkstands, Dessert Knives and Forks and Sets of Fish Eaters, Hand Painted Mirrors, Solid Brass Goods, a splendid selection of Fans, and an endless Variety of Knick-knacks in prices ranging from 25 cents upwards.

ELECTRO PLATED WARE,

Comprising Tea and Coffee Sets, Toilet Sets, Jewel Caskets, Vases, Cake and Fruit Baskets, Card Receivers, Butter Coolers, Children's Sets, &c. &c.

BOOKS.

A Choice Selection of Handsomely bound Gift Books, Sets of Shakespear, George Eliot, Chas. Dickens, Byron, and Smiles in Cases, Tales, Plays, Books of Household Management, Oxfords, Classics, Novels and Standard Works in rich Cloth leather Bindings.

KELLY & WALSH, LTD., HONGKONG.

W. BREWER HAS JUST RECEIVED

All the Children's Annuals.

All the Boys' and Girls' Annuals.

Very Clever Mechanical Toys.

India Rubber Toys for Infants.

Great Variety of Dolls.

Great Variety of New Fancy Goods.

New Menu Cards and Ball Programmes.

Birchours Boards for Oil Painting.

New Oil Colours.

Very handsome Playing Cards.

New Popular Waltzes.

All the New Songs.

Tunes for Piano, Tambourine.

Tennis Shoes with Solid Soles.

Men's Patent Shoes; Dancing Pumps.

Microphone and Silver mounted Brass Pipes.

Amber Cigars and Ligature Holders.

Tou Smith's Christmas Crackers.

Lotus and Smith's Diaries & Anglo-Chinese Date Books.

WALTER W. BREWER, UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL.

CHRISTMAS, 1887.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL is now

prepared to receive Orders to Supply

GAME PIES, MINCE PIES

CAKES, &c.

C. M. ROBERTS, Manager.

Hongkong, 20th December, 1887. [1943]

NOW READY.

THE HONGKONG CALENDAR, FOR THE DESK, IN RED AND BLACK.

IN RED IMITATION MOROCCO CASE.

PRICE ONE DOLLAR.

KELLY & WALSH, W. BREWER, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

FRENCH DRESS-MAKER.

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[FOR FURTHER INTELLIGENCE SEE 3RD PAGE.]

BANKS.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions

to Sell by Public Auction,

"TO-MORROW,"

the 28th December, 1887, at Noon, on Board

THE BRITISH STEAMER

"ATHOLE,"

INSURANCES.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF 1877
IN HAMBURG.

The Undersigned Agents of the above Company, are Prepared to ACCEPT RISKS at Current Rates.

PUSTAU & Co.

Hongkong, 18th January, 1887. [117]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—Hongkong.

CAPITAL TWO MILLION DOLLARS.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$400,000.

TOTAL ASSETS \$1,286,000.

CLAIMS PAID EXCEEDED \$50,000.

RISKS accepted at CURRENT RATES OF PREMIUM.

JAS. B. COUGHTIER,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st September, 1887. [121]

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST.

A.D. 1720.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation, are prepared to grant Insurance as follows:

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued at current rates payable either here, in London, or the principal Ports of India, China, and Australia.

PIPE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for sum not exceeding £5,000, at reduced rates.

HOLIDAY, WISE & Co.

Hongkong, 26th July, 1887. [123]

CALEDONIAN FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1865.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company are prepared to issue Policies of Insurance against Fire on the usual terms.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.

Hongkong, January, 1882. [124]

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—Hongkong.

CAPITAL (SUBSCRIBED), \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LIM S. SANG, Esq.

HAN LI CHOY, Esq.

O. HOI CHUN, Esq.

The Company GRANTS POLICIES on MANUFACTURED GOODS in all parts of the World.

Fire Risks at all parts of its Agencies.

Contributory Dividends are payable to all Contributors of Business, whether they are Shareholders or not.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE, No. 2 Queen's Road West.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1881. [125]

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

The Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

SIEMSSEN & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1872. [126]

NOTICE.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

NORTON & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, 16th July, 1887. [127]

PHENIX FIRE OFFICE

The Undersigned are now prepared to GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE against FIRE at Current Rates.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.

Agents for Phenix Fire Office.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1887. [128]

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

The Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE and LIFE at Current Rates.

PUSTAU & Co.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1885. [129]

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY AT HAMBURG.

The Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES to the extent of \$305,000, on first-class risks at current rates.

MELCHERS & Co.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1876. [130]

THE LATEST ADVANCE IN LIFE INSURANCE.

THE NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY'S 5 YEAR DIVIDEND POLICY

THIS Policy secures the insured the option of terminating his Insurance at the end of any 5 years, provided he has paid his Premiums in full, and has also paid his dividends together with his share of accumulated surplus apportioned as a dividend. If death occur, the full amount of the Policy will be paid immediately on proof of death, together with a Morituary Dividend of 50 per cent. of all premiums received during the 5 year period in which death may happen.

Prospects and full particulars may be had on application to GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Acting Agents.

Hongkong, 13th January, 1887. [131]

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY

The Undersigned, Agents of the above Company, are authorized to INSURE against FIRE at Current Rates.

GILMAN & Co.

Hongkong, 1st January, 1882. [132]

CUTLER, PALMER & Co.

Established in 1815.

OF LONDON, BORDEAUX, CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS, LAHORE, KARACHAHAN, &c.

As represented in China by JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.

SIEMSEN & Co.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co. & by

B. E. CARLTON & Co. in Japan.

Subjunctives are of the same as consigned by these well-known Shippers.

SPRINGS.

COGNAC—The popular "4 Star" quality and best—No bottle shipped.

COGNAC—The well-known "2 Star" quality.

SCOTCH WHISKY.

The "CARLTON"—11 years old.

The "Heart Shaped Bottle."

The "Squat Bottles."

Are C. & Co.'s selected Whiskies of perfect quality, each as well matured and free from acid.

The "GLENLIVET" in round bottles is popular and good.

IRISH WHISKY, Only one quality consigned, the best.

PORT—INVIALDS.

Invalids in particular are recommended to select this Wine, it is really an INVIALDS PORT.

SHERRY.

For Consouder's following have their own distinctive merits.

INVIALDS pale, delicate fine flavor.

"AMOROSO," a Sherry Wine, very popular.

"MANZANILLA," a clear dry apple-flavored Wine.

"SHEEPY—WHITE SEAL," a special favorite in China.

CLARET.

Perfectly pure Bordeaux, not loaded to please vitiated palates.

MOUTON in quarts and pints.

LAROCHE in quarts and pints.

ST. ESTEPHE in quarts and pints.

MARGAUX-MEDOC in quarts and pints.

LIQUEUR.

Benedictine from the Monastery.

C. P. & Co. are the Sole Consignors of this world-wide known Liquor.

For Prepossess to either of the above Firms marked *

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE.

THE HARNESS FIRE-DESTROYER

—HAND GRENADES FOR EXTINGUISHING FIRES AT THE SPOT.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1887. [124]

FOR SALE.

DANISH EXPORT BEER from the

TUDOR BREWERIES, COPENHAGEN,

in Quarts and Pints.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1887. [124]

FOR SALE.

CHAMPAGNE "MONOPOLÉ."

—HEIDENREICH & Co.

MONOPOLÉ Red SEAL (medium dry).

Do. "see" "Gold FOIL" (dry).

DRY. Do. (extra dry).

CARLOWITZ & Co.,

Solo Agents for

HEIDENREICH, Co., REIMS.

For Hongkong, China, and Japan.

Hongkong, 1st July, 1887. [125]

FOR SALE.

CH. S. H. D. S. I. C. K. S. CHAMPAGNE, 1880 White SEAL.

\$22. per case of 1 dozen quarts.

\$23. per case of 2 dozen pints.

PAUL DUHOUX & Co.

CLARET, Grand MOUSSEAU.

\$25. per case of 1 dozen quarts.

CLARET, CHATEAU LAROSE.

\$12. per case of 1 dozen quarts.

CLARET, CHATEAU MARGAUX.

\$7.50. per case of 1 dozen quarts.

CLARET, CHATEAU MARGAUX.

\$8.50. per case of 2 dozen pints.

CLARET, CHATEAU MARGAUX.

\$5. per case of 1 dozen quarts.

CLARET, CHATEAU MARGAUX.

\$5. per case of 1 dozen bottles.

CLARET, CHATEAU MARGAUX.

\$1.50. per case of 1 dozen bottles.

CLARET, CHATEAU MARGAUX.

\$1.50. per case of 1 dozen bottles.

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 1887.

THE PROPOSED TELEGRAPH CONVENTION WITH CHINA.

The proposed Telegraph Convention between the Chinese Telegraph Administration and the Foreign Companies has been turned over to the way of his predecessors; but so far as the embasement is concerned, the system under which Watson was allowed to have the money in his hands is as much to blame as the man himself. He was not engaged to fill a position of trust, and the trust ought not to have been thrust upon him. Yet we find that a man who is specially engaged for a position of trust, who has superior advantages of education and emoluments, and who betrays his trust, is treated the more leniently of the two. This is a manifest injustice. Either MARKHAM's sentence was too lenient, or Watson's has been too severe.

THE STATUS OF FOREIGN MAIL STEAMERS IN COLONIAL PORTS.

A few days ago we referred to the introduction of the Foreign Mail Steamer Ordinance in the Legislative Council of Ceylon, and to the evidence it seemed to afford of the non-success of the agitation set foot against these Bills by the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce. Further evidence in the same direction is afforded by the introduction of a similar Bill in the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements. The Bill was introduced on the 29th November, and the Attorney-General, in moving the first reading, said:—"This Bill is as well threaded out in this Council, and all that can be said in it has been so often, that the Council will not be sorry to find the question set at rest once and for all. By virtue of the Royal Commission of 1856 made with the French Government, the vessels subsidized by that Government for postal purposes receive certain privileges and immunities in British ports. It has been the practice from time to time for this Council to pass an Ordinance giving effect to that Convention, for a limited period only, in the expectation that the convention would be determined, and replaced by a new one. That expectation, however, has been so often disappointed in the past, that there now seems a likelihood that the convention will endure as long as this Council itself. Under these circumstances it is thought advisable, instead of having these annual or semi-annually recurring Bills, to provide once for all that the present arrangement shall continue as long as the Convention does. That is to say, that in the opinion of the hon. gentleman the unofficial members, having failed in their efforts hitherto, ought now gracefully to throw up the sponge. He went on to say that the Bill differed from its predecessors in that it set out at length those provisions of the Convention to which it is proposed to give the force of law. He added:—"It must be remembered by those gentlemen who object to this legislation, that the immunity given is only of a partial nature. We cannot give to the French mail steamer touches Saigon, whence there is a branch line to Tonquin, whence it comes on to Hongkong, whence cables are laid to Manila and Macao; and from Hongkong the line goes on to Shanghai, Tonquin, Manila, and Macao are only recently added feeder, and the Manila traffic is, we believe, itself very valuable. With such a profitable field to work the Company is not likely to be driven off by any moderate reduction in rates. Moreover, Sir JOHN WALSHAM could hardly have been misguided by any particular favoritism to the Eastern Extension Company when he made the agreement for the establishment of telegraphic communication between Yunnan and Burma; as this will open up still another route, and so introduce further competition. But, as the Shanghai Chamber point out, "if this Convention conceivably force it will be a precedent applying to all Chinese lines, and the hope of the establishment of a new and cheaper route by the South and through Burma will have to be abandoned." Sir JOHN WALSHAM could not, therefore, if he had any regard to logic, have been working at one and the same time to secure communication via Yunnan and Burma, and a Convention which would render the establishment of such communication practically impossible. The connection of Yunnan and Burma by the telegraph is of the highest importance, not only from a commercial but also from a national point of view, as it would draw Bengal and China closer together. The conclusion of the Telegraph Convention would retard if not altogether prevent this, while still leaving China in connection with the Russian lines. The Convention must therefore be emphatically condemned both on political and commercial grounds.

TWO SENTENCES COMPARED.

At the Hongkong Criminal Sessions on the 21st last, BENJAMIN WATSON, late ward-master at the Government Civil Hospital, was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for embezzling the money and property of a patient who died in that institution. Two months ago WILLIAM HOPE WOLSEY MARKHAM, a Paymaster in Her Majesty's Navy, was charged before the same Judge, Mr. Justice LEACH, with embezzling public money. The amount involved in the last named case was many times larger than that appropriated by WATSON, and the circumstances under which it was stolen, having regard to the relative positions of the two men, were vastly more discreditable. Yet MARKHAM is awarded a sentence of five years' penal servitude, while WATSON gets one of seven years. MARKHAM was a man with all the advantages of education, appointed to a position of honour and trust, whilst he betrayed WATSON, who was a man drawn from a lower rank of life, whose pay was small, who was not supposed to be entrusted with the custody of large funds, but who, owing to the absence of a proper system, found money placed in his hands, and yielded to the temptation to appropriate it. MARKHAM produced certificates of character; WATSON did the same. MARKHAM's crime was the greater; WATSON's position in society before his crime was the lower. But because his position in society had been lower than that of MARKHAM is that any reason why he should be visited with a more severe punishment for his crime? In his report on the Civil Hospital for 1884 Dr. WHARRY said:—"The calls upon the ward-master are constant and so harassing that there is always a risk of his giving the way of his predecessors. These almost without exception have succumbed to the pressure, and however promising and well-recommended on joining the service, have nearly all taken to drink and dissipation." In a subsequent report Dr. WHARRY wrote:—"Mr. WATSON, the European ward-master, has taken considerable pains to learn his duties, and he is now exceedingly useful. His posi-

tion is a trying one, and his work very harassing. Finally, after apparently doing good work, he justified the remarks of Dr. WHARRY in the earlier of those extracts, and did go the way of his predecessors; but so far as the embasement is concerned, the system under which Watson was allowed to have the money in his hands is as much to blame as the man himself. He was not engaged to fill a position of trust, and the trust ought not to have been thrust upon him. Yet we find that a man who is specially engaged for a position of trust, who has superior advantages of education and emoluments, and who betrays his trust, is treated the more leniently of the two. This is a manifest injustice. Either MARKHAM's sentence was too lenient, or Watson's has been too severe.

of that Colony, with regard to trade marks and marks on merchandise, to the law in England and to the law which will shortly be in force throughout the British Empire. At the Colonial Conference this year, it was the unanimous opinion of the Colonial delegates, that the law on the subject should be made uniform throughout the Empire. The primary object of the Bill, the Attorney-General said, "is the protection of British merchants and manufacturers against the fraudulent imitations by foreigners of their goods, which are so common and which have done and are doing such great injury to British trade and commerce." The hon. gentleman might have added "fraudulent imitations by Englishmen," for foreigners are not the only sinners in this respect, and in fact are sometimes the sinners against. Under the measure, as we understand it, all honest traders, of whatever nationality, will enjoy protection, and there is no ground for the importation of national prejudice into its discussion. As showing the necessity for such protection we may mention a case which has come under our own notice. The proprietors of certain very popular articles which have for years past been widely advertised and have acquired an excellent reputation, have recently curtailed their advertising. The agents write us:—"It is on account of the imitations that they have reduced the orders for advertisements of such nature as were not immediately wanted for home consumption." These remarks might have been written with reference to Shanghai and the other ports of China, and they remain true to the present day. The necessity of bonded warehouses has been consistently urged by the foreign merchants, and in 1850 matters had so far progressed that the Chinese Government, by the principle of the parasitic, had proposed to introduce a liberal subsidy as an inducement to it to enter their confederacy, and minimise the advantages to the public of the establishment of the new line. The Telegraph Companies, by their liberal policy, are reducing the growth of trade. Relief has long been sought for, and now that the Chinese land lines are so far progressed, that connection with the Russian lines can be established, there seems some prospect, or perhaps it would be more correct to say possibility, of a reduction of rates being brought about by the healthy influence of competition. But the two companies lost no time in setting about their attempt to cut off this chance, and, as it is reported, offered the Chinese Telegraph Administration a liberal subsidy as an inducement to it to enter their confederacy, and minimise the advantages to the public of the establishment of the new line. The Telegraph Companies have, of course, as much right, legally and morally, to enter into agreements to keep up rates, as have Shipping Companies or any other class of undertakings. But the Chinese Telegraph Administration is really a state concern, and the Chinese Government, which may be supposed to recognise considerations which may be ignored by the Companies, is therefore involved; and the British and Russian Ministers have, it is said, been using their influence in furtherance of the proposed convention. The matter is therefore one in which the commercial communities of the two chief ports of the Far East have done well in addressing the Minister. The statement that Sir JOHN WALSHAM has urged the conclusion of the convention appears to us to be open to some doubt. The reason given for his alleged action is that he entertains a fear that if rates are lowered the Eastern Extension Company will have to give up its line to Hongkong. In face of the rapidly growing and highly profitable traffic of the Company on this line such a fear is absolutely baseless. The line after leaving Singapore touches Saigon, whence there is a branch line to Tonquin, whence it comes on to Hongkong, whence cables are laid to Manila and Macao; and from Hongkong the line goes on to Shanghai, Tonquin, Manila, and Macao are only recently added feeders, and the Manila traffic is, we believe, itself very valuable. The line after leaving Singapore touches Saigon, whence there is a branch line to Tonquin, whence it comes on to Hongkong, whence cables are laid to Manila and Macao; and from Hongkong the line goes on to Shanghai, Tonquin, Manila, and Macao are only recently added feeders, and the Manila traffic is, we believe, itself very valuable. 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